(c) the names of stations identified in Punjab for electrification in the near future?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI R. VELU): (a) and (b) Neither any expenditure was incurred by the Government on electrification of stations nor any station was electrified during the last three years in Punjab.

(c) As per existing guidelines, following two stations are identified for electrification during the year 2005-06:

1.Theh Qalandar Halt

2. Ajitgill Matta Halt

Manning of unmanned level crossings

1969. SHRI DATTA MEGHE: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Railways have prepared any plan for manning unmanned level crossings in the country, particularly in Maharashtra;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether any criteria has been laid down for unmanned level crossings to qualify for manning;

(d) if so, the details thereof; and

(e) the particulars of unmanned level crossings in Maharashtra which have qualified this criteria for manning?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI R. VELU): (a) to (e) On Indian Railway manning of unmanned level crossings is taken up based on criteria laid down for manning. As per existing criteria unmanned level crossings are categorized as Category I, II & III. Brief extract of existing policy criteria is given as under:

Category I : Clear visibility level crossings where Train Vehicle Unit (TVU) is more than 6000 AND Road vehicles more than 180.

Category II : Restricted visibility level crossings where TVU is more than 6000 AND Road vehicles more than 120.

Category III : Restricted visibility level crossings where TVU is between 3000-6000.

Manning of Category III will be considered once manning of first two categories is over.

Further, as per codal provision manning of existing unmanned level crossing necessitated due to increase in the volume of the road traffic, the initial capital as well as capitalized cost of annual recurring maintenance and operational cost has to be borne fully by the State Government/Local Authorities concerned.

Statistics of manning of unmanned level crossings is planned zone-wise and not State-wise. As on 1.12.2004, the number of unmanned level crossings identified for manning is 1255 which includes the level crossings falling in the Zones serving the State of Maharashtra also. Total 211 unmanned level crossings have been targeted for completion in 2004-2005.

Platforms at Chitrakoot Dham Karvi Station

1970. SHRI NANA DESHMUKH: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the level of both the platforms at Chitrakoot Dham Karvi Station is quite lower than the last step of passenger bogie resulting in a lot of inconvenience to passengers, pilgrims, especially senior citizens and handicapped persons;

(b) whether the matter was taken up with his Ministry earlier; and

(c) if so, the steps taken and by when the job of raising the platforms is likely to be completed?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI R. VELU): (a) Chitrakoot Dham Karvi Station is a B category station. As per the norms, medium level platform is to be provided at the station, which is available at the station.

(b) No, Sir.

(c) Does not arise.